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Complete set of claims

1. (original) An auxiliary for fine pattern formation comprising a modified polyvinyl alcohol protected with a protecting group, a water-soluble crosslinking agent, and water or a mixed solvent of water and a water-soluble organic solvent, wherein the amount of high-molecular weight body components of the modified polyvinyl alcohol protected with a protecting group, which has a weight-average molecular weight of 250,000 or more as determined by polyethylene glycol standards according to a gel permeation chromatography, is 1000 ppm or less in the modified polyvinyl alcohol.
2. (original) The auxiliary for fine pattern formation according to claim 1, wherein the modified polyvinyl alcohol protected with a protecting group is one that was treated so as to remove acid components and metal ions therefrom.
3. (canceled)
4. (withdrawn) A method of producing the modified polyvinyl alcohol protected with a protecting group according to claim 3, wherein a solution of the modified polyvinyl alcohol protected with a protecting group is heat-treated at the temperature of 80°C or more.
5. (withdrawn) The method of producing modified polyvinyl alcohol protected with a protecting group according to claim 4, wherein the solution of modified polyvinyl alcohol protected with a protecting group is heat-treated after a step of removing acid components and metal ions from the solution.